

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1908.

WM. L. BYHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sunbury-on-Thames,
Middlesex.

MARCH 8TH, 1909.

“Middlesex Chronicle” Office, High Street, Staines.

Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1908.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and general sanitary condition of the district for the year 1908, together with an account of the sanitary work which has been carried out during the same period.

Births.—There have been 109 births, 65 boys and 44 girls, giving a birth-rate of 23.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population, which, for the purposes of these statistics, has been computed to be 4,730—a slight increase on last year. This is the smallest number registered in the district for some years, and gives the lowest rate for at least the last ten years, the average for which period has been 28.6, while that for the whole County of Middlesex for the year 1907 was 26.3, and for England and Wales in 1907 the same, viz.: 26.3.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths, including 11 residents who died outside the district, was 64, and the resulting rate 13.5, which is somewhat lower than the average for the last ten years, which is 14.1. That for the County of Middlesex in 1907 was 11.1, and for England and Wales in 1907 15.0.

Infant Mortality.—There was a comparatively satisfactory infant mortality rate last year and a still further improvement, where it was much needed, is to be recorded this year.

There have been only seven deaths of children under one year of age, with a rate of 64.2 per 1,000 births registered. That for the County of Middlesex for the year 1907 was 97, and for England and Wales for the same year 118. With a lower birth-rate, a correspondingly lower infant mortality rate would be expected, but when the rate in one year recently was as high as 158 and the

average for the last ten years was 112, the survival of infants for over one year shows a distinct improvement over previous records.

This is in a great measure due to the practical immunity which the district has enjoyed from diseases of an infectious and epidemic character, which prove so fatal to infant life.

A table is here inserted for easy reference in comparing the various rates of the district with those of the County of Middlesex and of England and Wales for the year 1907.

	Sunbury, 1908.	Middlesex, 1907.	England and Wales, 1907.
Birth Rate	23.0	26.3	26.3
Average, 1898—1907 ...	28.6		
Death Rate	13.5	11.5	15.0
Average, 1898—1907 ...	14.1		
Infant Mortality Rate ..	64	97	118
Average, 1898—1907 ...	112		

The year under review has been a particularly healthy one as regards the district. There has been nothing approaching an epidemic of any sort or kind, either amongst adults or children, little or no summer diarrhoea, and only a comparatively few cases of whooping cough.

There have been reported during the year only seven cases of infectious diseases which are notifiable in the district. Four of these were scarlet fever, and three diphtheria. These cases were mostly of a mild type, and occurred one each in February, July, August and September, and three in October. They were reported from distinct quarters of the district, and in no instance was one case responsible for another, and all made good recoveries.

Apart from the fact that many children in the district are more or less immune (having come satisfactorily through the epidemic which occurred some few years ago), the general improvement in the sanitary condition and the present very satisfactory working of the existing system of drainage, have contributed to this highly gratifying state of things.

I may here state that disinfection of houses is carried out by means of Formalin vapour and the use of a Mackenzie spray. Perhaps less gratifying is the fact that out of a total of 53 deaths occurring in the district, as many as

eight should have been due to phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis). When eight deaths have occurred in different localities, it is a practical certainty that as many centres of infection have been created, though the disease, in an incipient form, may not have been at present detected. It is a recognised fact and a palpable one, that the longer the exposure to the chance of infection, the greater the risk to inmates of the same house. Hence the necessity for isolation in the earlier stages of the disease.

In face of the fact, however, that deaths from some form of tuberculosis formed over one-ninth of the total death-rate for the County of Middlesex in the year 1907, though there may be no cause for alarm, still there is palpably every necessity for the most strenuous endeavours to cope with this terribly fatal disease.

Very opportunely, has a new Regulation under the Public Health Acts, 1875 and 1896 been issued by the Local Government Board, enforcing the notification of all cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurring amongst all persons in receipt of relief from the Poor Rate. By this means the houses of "poor persons" come under the control of the Sanitary Authority, and the necessary steps can be taken for disinfection and isolation where circumstances permit.

This, though a move in the right direction, does not meet the whole case. The condition of those not in receipt of parish relief is in *statu quo*.

I would suggest with a view to voluntary notification that a reasonable fee should be paid, and this, I believe, would be sanctioned by the Local Government Board.

I am happy to state that by private enterprise, a Sanatorium containing accommodation for 100 sufferers from Pulmonary Tuberculosis residing in the County of Middlesex, is likely to be founded in the near future.

By removal to such an Institution only can the afflicted be satisfactorily attended to with a good prospect of recovery, and the other inmates of their homes efficiently protected.

I believe this scheme to be well worthy of the earnest consideration and support of all interested in the health of the County, where there is no provision whatever at the present time for the treatment of this disastrous malady.

There have been no cases of Typhoid Fever reported, and from the fact that there has been no case of Puerperal Fever, it may be inferred that the Midwives Act is working well in the district. Though the Notification of Births Act

has not been adopted, the infant mortality figures tend to prove that it is not, perhaps, so requisite here as elsewhere.

An inspection of school children has been made during the year by one of the Medical Inspectors appointed by the County Council, but I am not aware of any grave physical or mental defects having been detected by him amongst the children as a whole. I have, however, had my attention directed to the very dirty bodily condition of some of the children attending the schools, but it is a somewhat difficult matter to deal with. The conditions in many of the homes of the children are such that anything like systematic bathing is well nigh impossible, and there is nothing in the way of a public bath house available. The general physical conditions of the neighbourhood may be considered eminently satisfactory from a residential point of view. A deep gravel subsoil of a "sharp" and porous nature, with not much clay, makes surface drainage comparatively easy. This also applies to the disposal of sewage, which is carried out on the broad irrigation principle at a Sewage Farm, under cultivation, situated at the western boundary of the district, and from which I have never heard of any complaint.

There is a steady flow of subsoil water from N.W. to S.E. There is ample accommodation for the working classes in the matter of housing, though a considerable number of villas of a somewhat pretentious character for this purpose are occupied by two or more families.

The majority of cottages have capital garden plots and through ventilation, back to back houses being quite the exception. The water supply is excellent, 95 per cent. of the houses being supplied from Public Water Service, and additional connections are made from time to time, when practicable.

Much the same percentage of houses are drained into the main sewers. Very few on the route of the sewers are not connected. Since the adoption of the Cowsheds and Dairies Bye-laws, all Cowkeepers have conformed to the Regulations, and the condition of Dairies and Cowsheds is eminently satisfactory.

House Refuse is collected weekly in the more thickly populated parts of the district, and fortnightly in the outlying neighbourhood. All the bakehouses and laundries are well kept, clean and sanitary, and there are no underground bakehouses.

The Mortuary accommodation is satisfactory.

There is only one Slaughterhouse in the district, and that is kept in a satisfactory state.

At the present time there are many houses unoccupied, and there is not much building going on.

Cases of overcrowding occasionally occur and are dealt with as far as possible, but there are many difficulties to contend with, and it is felt that the employment of more drastic measures would amount to persecution of the offending parties.

There is no Isolation Hospital for the District, but a scheme has been advanced which it is devoutly to be hoped will before long materialise.

It may be said that no nuisance exists, unless exception may be taken to the method of unloading manure, of a particularly offensive character, from the trucks of the Railway Company, on a siding in the Sunbury station yard. As the station is situated in the immediate vicinity of a large number of residences, this state of things is very objectionable, and may be considered, if not directly, at all events indirectly, injurious to health.

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. F. Coales, has been most assiduous in maintaining the very satisfactory sanitary condition of the District which attained at the end of the year 1907, and which was the outcome of much new work initiated at the commencement of that year, and completed before the close.

I should like here to express my thanks to Mr. Coales for the great assistance he has given me in getting out the sanitary tables embodied in this Report, and of my high appreciation of his work in connection with the sanitary administration of the District throughout the year, involving, as it has, much time and labour.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Council as a whole for the cordial support they have always given me when matters affecting the health of the District have been brought to their notice. This has caused the work done to be a pleasant duty.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. L. BYHAM.

Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council.

SANITARY WORK, 1908.

The Inspector of Nuisances is Mr. HAROLD F. COALES, M.R. San.Inst., who is also Surveyor. He is assisted in the Office by a youth aged 17 years.

No. 1.

*Inspections—

Number of Premises inspected on complaint (1)	30
Number of Premises inspected in connection with Infectious Diseases (2)	7
Number of Premises under Periodical Inspection (3)	17
Houses inspected from house-to-house (4)	330
Total number of Inspections and Re-inspections made (5)	1320

*N.B.—(3) Includes all classes of premises under periodical supervision, such as Cowsheds, Dairies, Slaughterhouses, Workshops and Workplaces etc. (5) includes all visits and re-visits made by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with 1—4.

Notices—

Cautionary or Intimation Notices given	54
Statutory Orders issued	1
Summonses served	—
Convictions obtained	—

Dwelling Houses—

Houses, Premises, etc., cleaned, repaired, etc.	153
Closed as unfit for habitation	—
Reopened after Repairs, Alterations, etc.	—
Demolished	—
Illegal Underground Dwellings vacated	—

No 2.

Movable Dwellings, Caravans, Tents, etc.—

Number observed during the year	20
Number of Nuisances therefrom abated	—
Number removed from District	20

Bakehouses—

Number in District	4
Contraventions of Factory Acts	—

Slaughter-Houses—

Number on Register (no register kept but only one slaughter-house in district).	
Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection (half-yearly)	2
Contravention of Bye-laws	—

Cowsheds—

Number on Register	5
Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection (quarterly)	20
Contraventions of Regulations	—
Number of Milch Cows in District	116

Dairies and Milkshops—

Number on Register	5
Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection (quarterly)	20
Contraventions of Regulations	—

Water Supply and Water Service—

Wells—Cleansed, Repaired, etc.	1
Percentage of Houses supplied from Public Water Service	95
Cisterns—New provided	6
Cleansed, Repaired, Covered, etc.	9
Percentage of Houses supplied on Constant System	95
Number of Samples obtained for analysis from Local Wells	3

No. 3.**Drainage and Sewerage of Existing Buildings—****Water Closets—**

Number of Water Closets substituted for Dry Receptacles	11
Repaired, Supplied with Water, or otherwise improved	22
Percentage of Houses provided with Water Closets (where sewers exist)	95

Drains—

Examined, Tested, Exposed, etc.	15
Unstopped, Repaired, Trapped, etc.	8
Waste Pipes, Rain Water Pipes, Disconnected, Repaired, etc.	20
New Soil Pipes or Ventilating Shafts fixed	1
Existing Soil Pipes or Ventilating Shafts repaired	1
Disconnecting Traps or Chambers inserted	—
Reconstructed	10

Cesspools—

Rendered Impervious, Emptied, Cleansed, etc.	4
Abolished and Drain connected to Sewer	—
Percentage of Houses Draining into Sewers (where sewers exist) ...	94

Disinfection—

Rooms Disinfected—Ordinary infectious diseases 7, Phthisis 2	9
Rooms stripped and cleansed	9
Articles Disinfected or Destroyed	—

Dust—

New Bins provided	54
How frequently is dust removed from each house?	†Weekly
Number of complaints of Non-Removal received	7
Method of Disposal	Tipping

Sundry Nuisances Abated—

Accumulation of Refuse	15
Foul Ditches, Ponds, etc., and Stagnant Water	2
Dampness	2
Yards repaved or Repaired	2
Other Nuisances	8

† Fortnightly in Halliford and Charlton.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.**Inspections—**

Workshops	8
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Defects—

Want of Ventilation—Found	1
Remedied	1

Home Work—

Wearing Apparel (making, &c.), received from other Councils ..	1
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Registered Workshops—

 No Register kept. Number of Workshops very small.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and
previous Years.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Residents Registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.			Number.	Rate.*
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births regis- tered.	Number.	Rate.*			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13
1898	4555	134	29.4	21	156.6	79	17.3	—	79	17.3
1899	4622	130	28.1	12	92.3	63	13.6	—	63	13.6
1900	4540	142	31.2	13	91.5	63	14	—	63	14
1901	4619	131	28.3	17	129.8	63	13.6	—	63	13.6
1902	4700	134	28.6	15	80	58	12.5	—	58	12.5
1903	4781	141	29.4	17	120.5	60	12.5	—	60	12.5
1904	4580	145	31.6	23	158.6	86	18.7	2	88	19.3
1905	4750	138	29	17	123.2	52	10.9	6	58	12.2
1906	4680	115	24.5	11	95.6	52	11.1	19	71	15.1
1907	4680	123	26.2	9	73.1	49	10.4	6	55	11.7
Averages for years 1898 1907	4650.7	133.3	28.6	15.5	112.1	62.5	13.4	—	65.8	14.1
1908	4730	109	23.0	7	64.2	53	11.2	11	64	13.5

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2660

Total population at all ages	4544	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses	938	
Average number of persons per house	4.84	

Births	{ Males 65 Females 44 }	109

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							Total cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards	
Diphtheria (including Membraneous croup)	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
Totals	7	—	1	4	2	—	—	—

Isolation Hospital—None.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Whooping-cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	8	—	—	—	1	6	1
Cancer, malignant disease..	4	—	—	—	—	2	2
Bronchitis	10	1	—	—	—	—	9
Pneumonia	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Premature birth	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Heart diseases	3	—	—	—	1	1	1
Accidents	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
Apoplexy	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
All other causes	18	5	2	1	1	3	6
All causes	53	7	4	1	3	15	23

NOTE.—This Table is not inclusive of "Outside" Deaths.

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under
One Year of Age.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	1-2 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	4-5 Months.	6-7 Months.	9-10 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Causes	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	4
	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	7

Population, estimated to middle of 1908—4,730.

Births in the year—Legitimate 109.

Deaths in the year—Legitimate infants 7.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 64.

PLAN OF THE BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND

The dotted lines show the divisions of the Borough into Registration Sub-Districts, whose Names are indicated as follows:—

S.E.—Sunderland East; S.W.—Sunderland West; S.N.—Sunderland North.

Showing the Deaths from Diarrhoea and Consumption, and the cases of Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and Continued Fever notified during the year 1908.

	ESTIMATED POPULATION.
Sunderland East Sub-District	58,252
Sunderland West Sub-District	64,724
Sunderland North Sub-District	34,519
Whole Borough	157,495

Cases of Enteric and Continued Fevers in RED.
Cases of Diphtheria in YELLOW.
Deaths from Diarrhoea in GREEN.
Deaths from Consumption in BLACK.



COUNTY BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND.
METEOROLOGICAL AND DISEASE CHART FOR 1908.



